

## Climate Connections – Research Project

### Talking with Experts – Preparation Ideas and Sample Interview Questions

Talking with experts who work in the field of the Challenge theme is a great way for your FLL team to learn more about the topic, find out current data, discover potential problems, and learn what is being done about those problems. Experts can include a variety of people like scientists, engineers, community leaders, university professors and students, and anyone whose life or work is affected by the Challenge theme.

### Preparing for Your Interview

You should contact your expert well in advance to see if they are able and willing to help on your project. Find out their preferred way to conduct the interview (in person, over the phone, electronically). Set up a time and start getting ready for the interview.

Before the day of the interview, your team should prepare a list of questions. Plan for concise, to-the-point questions that will help you achieve your project goals and make the best use of your time with the expert. Try to anticipate how long it will take for all the questions and answers so you can keep the interview in the scheduled time length. Keep your questions to the topic of your specific presentation.

It is helpful to write down your questions and have them in front of you when you are interviewing. You may even consider sending a list of questions to your expert in advance so they can properly prepare. Decide ahead of time which team member(s) will ask each of the questions. Always remember to exhibit gracious professionalism during your interview and be respectful of the time given to you by the expert. Treat the expert like a member of your team and remember to thank them for their contribution!

### Climate Connections Experts and Sample Questions

#### Climate Experts

Certain types of experts who work with or in climate everyday may be particularly helpful to talk with for your project. These may include:

- Climatologists
- Farmers
- Meteorologists
- Gardeners
- Entomologists
- Community Leaders
- Lawmakers
- Fishermen
- Landscapers
- Business owners

### Research Questions

There are certain questions you should answer through research prior to interviewing any experts. These will help everyone on your team have an understanding of the basic project and challenge elements.

Some of these questions include:

- How do climate and weather differ?
- How do climate problems affect your life?
- What tools are used to measure climate and weather?
- What types of jobs are affected by climate and weather?
- What is the jet stream? How does it affect weather?
- What is the sunniest city in your country? What city has the most rainfall each year?

### Interview Questions

As you prepare for your interview, you will need to think of questions that specifically address the project topic your team has selected. However, some teams may talk to experts before selecting a specific problem and the questions below are a helpful guide to get you started.

Some *sample* interview questions include:

- How did you get into your career?
- Do you experience the effects of climate in your career? How so?
- What is the most important climate question facing our area?
- Do you know of any other areas in the world facing similar challenges caused by climate?
- How do you measure climate? Are there tools to do this?
- As a (farmer, fisherman, etc.), how is your job affected by the climate you live in?
- What effect does weather/climate have on your job?
- Do you think the climate is changing in our area?
- Do you believe that we need to reverse effects caused by climate change?
  - If so, can we reverse it and how would that be done?
- What types of living things are affected by climate (animals, plants etc?)
- What advice can you give the next generation in terms of fixing climate problems?
- Would planting trees have an effect on the climate of our area?